GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1680
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004
PRODUCTION OF SILK
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the rank of India in global silk production;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to improve silk production of various kinds to top among silk producing countries in the world;

(c) the various proposals mooted in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement these proposals?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA)

(a) India is the second largest silk producing country in the world contributing to about 17% of world raw silk production.

(b) to (d) Several programmes and schemes to increase the production, quality and the competitiveness of the domestic silk industry have been instituted. The major ones are:

- Research and Development efforts of Central Silk Board have been stepped up to improve quantity and productivity of sericulture, by evolution of more productive and stress tolerant breeds and hybrids of mulberry and non-mulberry food plants and silkworms; and development of low cost reeling and processing technologies in silk;

- Seed Support & Technical Assistance is being given by the Central Silk Board to State Governments, farmers & reelers by maintenance of parent races and basic seed, supply of commercial seed, and augmentation of grainage facilities for production of disease free high yielding and drought resistant seeds;

- Central assistance is being extended to states through Centrally Sponsored & Central sector schemes to strengthen farm infrastructure, increase area under sericulture, upgrade reeling facilities, improve finishing processes, strengthen cocoon & silk testing systems;

- Low cost and productivity enhancing technologies developed by the Central Silk Board are being popularized through central assistance to beneficiaries,, training to the States' extension machinery and beneficiaries, organizing of various awareness programmes, etc;

- For technology upgradation of the indigenous silk industry loan at 5% point less than applicable bank rate, under the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textiles sector is available inter alia to silk sector.

- Supply chain issues between the farmers, raw silk producers and the weavers are being addressed by advocating contract farming models, price linked grading, etc.

- An amount of Rs. 450 crores has been provided in the X Plan for the Sericulture sector to support the above strategy & programmes.